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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, March 10.

PETITION FROM WESTMINSTER.

Sir Francis Burdett presented a voluminous petition from Westminster, (which he said, was signed by 40,373 persons) against the Corn Bill. He said that he was not a supporter of the bill nor an enemy to it. His wish had always been and still was, to leave the Government to do what they pleased with it, as he considered it calculated to serve no other end whatever but that of keeping up the present system of taxation. He could view it in no other light than a means of bolstering up an insupportable system, and he only differed from others as to the remedy which ought to be opposed to it. In his opinion were unworthy the attention of the public, and if his constituents so totally differed from him, they knew their remedy, and were at liberty to return any other Representative they pleased.

The object he said was intimately connected with Parliamentary Reform, which would produce a diminution of the taxes—Adverting to the recent outrages, he considered all the disasters which were caused by the military to be acts of legal murder, (Hear! Hear!) Instead of a civil power to repel disturbance, people were placed in ambuscade in private houses to fire through the windows and doors. (Loud cries of No, No!) Reverting to the Corn Bill, he said that, if we wished to have a rich and wealthy, and a flourishing commerce, then Government ought not to interfere with any property whatever. He wished for no protection; he would have no landholder protected; no kind of property protected. (Loud laughing and cries of Hear, Hear!) All these sorts of interests would be perpetual jarring if under partial protection; he therefore wished to see equal protection, and every kind of property left to the discretion of its owner. He concluded by expressing his sorrow that any country gentlemen should have allowed themselves to be made cat's paws on such an occasion, but having done so, they must find their remedy as well as they could.

Mr. Robinson rose under considerable agitation, and apologized to the House for troubling them on this occasion; but he declared that he must be divested of every feeling that could pervade the breast of a gentleman, and an honest man, if he did not declare that he was most deeply afflicted at the unfortunate circumstance which had occurred at his residence. He could assure the hon. Baronet that in many particulars of the events he had alluded to, he was extremely mistaken. If he had supposed that the soldiers had been placed in ambush, nothing could be farther from the fact. They were assuredly placed inside the house, for it would have been impossible to protect it without them. The windows had been destroyed; the house had been entered three different times—(loud and numerous cries of hear, hear!)—and nothing but the appearance of the soldiers could have saved the premises. He believed also in his conscience that the lives of those unfortunate persons, who were protecting his property, would have been sacrificed, had there been no military in the house—[Here the right hon. gentleman was so deeply affected, that the tears flowed abundantly down his face, and he could scarcely articulate. Loud cheering responded from every part of the house.]

Lord Castlereagh said, if, on presenting the petition, the hon. Baronet had confined himself to general remarks against the government of the country as was his usual practice, and not to attack upon the constitution, he should have passed over his conduct in silence. But it was impossible for him to abstain from some observation, after what he had just heard from him. It was a little too much for the hon. Bart. now to declaim against the justice of protecting one's house and property, when, from his own mouth on former occasions, he had heard that every man's house was his castle, and that he was justified in defending it to the last extremity! (Loud shouts of hear, hear! from every part of the house.) He would say that every man had a right to defend his house, not in violation of the laws, or in order to shield himself from justice, (Hear, hear, hear!)—but to protect his property and his family from an infuriated mob. The house must forgive him (Lord C.) for his feelings on this occasion; though he trusted his temper would not forsake him; but when all the feelings of a loyal subject were outraged by such language as the hon. Baronet had made use of, it was impossible to repress it with composure. His Lordship asserted that the speech of the hon. Baronet aimed only at the destruction of the Constitution; and he begged those who had opposed the Corn Bill to say, whether they were disposed to embark with the hon. Baronet, in subverting the constitution, or give, by their silence, a practical countenance to such an opinion of them out of doors. If not, let them repel the foul suspicion, unless they were disposed to abandon all those venerable laws which protect not only the manufacturing, but every interest in the country. His Lordship sat down amidst a loud and long continued shout of approbation as were ever heard within the walls of the House.

Mr. M. A. Taylor said that there was no man more attached to the Constitution of the country than himself; nor could any one be more ready to deprecate any departure from it; but so far from thinking that the military had been improperly employed, he thought the government highly praise-worthy for calling them out with a view to put down those who threatened destruction both to the favourers and opposers of it. Every

man had a right to defend his castle, and those who attacked it must take the consequence of their temerity.—Without such resistance no man could safely live in his family. The worthy Baronet seemed to like the company of the hustings in Palace yard, better than that house, or the company in it; but he could not agree with any part of the speech of the hon. Baronet, because he conceived that he had a right to the protection of the government, and without affording as they had done, he should have conceived they had not done their duty. If the Hon. able Baronet did not like such opinions, he had better leave the house and not stop to hear them.

Sir Arthur Pigott asserted on his own knowledge, that the soldiers had not, before the mob attempted to force the house. Sir Francis Burdett in reply said, he wished to see himself right with the hon. gentleman opposite (Mr. Robinson). The circumstance which had happened certainly did not attach to him, but to the individual soldiers who had been placed in his house. He did not speak against the right of any man defending his own property, but of calling out military troops to oppose a body of people who ought to have been dispersed by the civil power alone. The noble Lord, who had accused him of wishing to undermine the constitution, had himself been detected in a transaction to this effect, for which he ought to have lost his head, or to have been impeached at the very least; and you, Sir, (said the Baronet addressing the speaker) declared at the time, that it was an act which would have made our forefathers startle with indignation. (Here loud outcries prevailed of Order, order! Chair, chair, chair!)

The Speaker, said, the hon. Baronet must have sat long enough in the House to know, that to hold such language is a breach of its orders.

Sir Francis Burdett admitted that he knew it was a breach of the orders of the House, (laughter,) but it was nevertheless not a breach of truth.

A Member under the Gallery begged to know whether the words of the hon. Baronet, before the interposition of the Speaker, ought not to be taken down?—(Cries of Order order!)

Mr. Baring said that he knew not what an hon. Baronet (Sir F. Burdett) meant to do with his vote, but the cause had not received much benefit from his arguments. He had spoken of the Country Gentlemen as having been made the Ministers' cat's paws; he rather considered that Ministers had been used as cat's paws by the Country Gentlemen. Who were to eat the cheese he could not say. He defended the measures resorted to by Government, to put down the rioters and thought the conduct of the persons concerned in the affair in Burlington street, justifiable.

Mr. Lockhart, said he thought that there ought to be arrangements for calling out all the householders to suppress tumults of this nature, before they had got to an alarming head. He thought this more necessary at the time when Juries had in their verdicts, thought proper to promulgate, abstract opinions, which they called law. As to a soldier's using the weapon in his hand to repel an attack, it did not depend upon any abstract principle to say, what that offence was; it depended altogether on the particular circumstances of the case. The law says, that if a man, having a deadly weapon in his hand, only uses it in cases of extreme necessity, and when he is driven to the wall, it is not murder.

The Petition was then ordered to be received and laid on the table.

MONDAY, March 13.

TRADE TO SOUTH AMERICA.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee, to consider of the South Sea Company's Act.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER entered into the nature and history of the South Sea Company, which had been established in 1720, under magnificent prospects, which afterwards turned out to be almost entirely delusive. Great losses were, of course, sustained by all the persons who had embarked in that speculation; yet the Company continued to exist, and to carry on a trade to South America and the South Seas, at a small profit. The Company divided 3 1-2 per cent, and their capital was about 3,500,000l. As it was now desirable to take the monopoly of this trade, out of the hands of the Company, a moderate compensation must be made for the loss they should sustain. For this purpose he should propose to raise a fund, out of which a dividend should be paid to the present proprietors, equal to their loss. This would not bring any charge upon the public, as it was intended to be raised out of a small tonnage duty, and a duty of 2 per cent. on the export of goods to the South Sea. He then concluded with moving a Resolution, "That the exclusive right of trade vested in the South Sea Company, in virtue of the Act of Queen Anne, do cease and determine."

Mr. Bennett wished to ask the Minister if there had been any interference on the part of the British government to put a stop to the calamities of late time war, which desolated the extensive provinces of South America. He had authority to state, that in those unhappy countries within the last three or four years, no less than one million of human beings were put to the sword. One particular province, which was 400 miles in extent, had been converted into a desert—the towns and villages were deserted and destroyed, and such of the inhabitants as escaped, fled to the woods for safety. Some idea might be formed of this horrible war, when the committee was informed, that on the surrender of the city of Valencia by treaty, all the chiefs of the insurgents were treacherously put to the sword. He wished to ask the Ministers, if any mediation had been proposed on the part of the British government in 1812, between the Colonies and Old Spain? He understood that since the return of Ferdinand, a Counsellor of State, who had been instrumental in betraying this

country to France, was sent out to South America, and made a great part of the country a scene of blood and devastation. He was told an expedition had just sailed from Cadiz to South America; but he prayed to God that it might fail, and that it might perish on the coast of the new world. The question which the British Ministers ought to consider was, whether they should take a part with nine millions of slaves, who composed the population of Old Spain, or with eighteen millions of freemen and men desiring to be free, who inhabited the regions of South America, who were open to receive us, and who were anxious to maintain a commerce and alliance with us. It had been said, that his Majesty's Government preserved a strict neutrality between the new and old worlds; this was not the fact, because Spanish troops had been fitted out for South America at our expense; we maintained some of their troops in Trinidad; the royalists were provided with arms, and several refugee patriots were denied the rights of hospitality in Trinidad; the government of the island refused to permit them to take place there, and at last they met with a hospitable reception from that excellent man Petion; yes! from Petion! a black, who exercised the virtues and the wisdom that should adorn a sovereign Prince. Besides, the English government had dishonoured itself by conferring the order of the Garter on King Ferdinand; and he now wished to know what Minister it was who had dared to advise the Prince Regent to do that act.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, he could give an answer only to one of the questions put by the hon. gentleman. The British government did interfere & endeavour to mediate between the government of the Cortes and the colonies. This was at the time when we were assisting to preserve the liberty of Old Spain. I was very difficult to give an opinion respecting the troubles alluded to by the hon. gentleman, and still more difficult to interfere. We must keep well with the Spaniards of the new world; but it was at the same time, necessary to keep up our alliance with Old Spain. No pretext should be furnished for the public to say, that while assisting Spain, we were about to rob her of her colonies. As to the question respecting the orders of the Garter and Golden Fleece, he did not think such things of sufficient importance for discussion in that House; nor that the House had any right to interfere with that which was exclusively the sovereign's prerogative.

Mr. Whitbread conceived it highly proper to take a view of the state of South America, at a time when we were about to open a general trade to that country, by the abolition of the South Sea Company. But with respect to the abominable government of Old Spain, he wished to have a more clear exposition of the sentiments of Ministers, he wished the right hon. gentleman to refute the accusation that we had assisted the Cortes and the king of Spain with money and arms, for the purpose of crushing the patriots of the new world. If this accusation was false, it was an atrocious calumny—and let the right hon. gentleman refute it if he could; and if he did not, the natives of the new world would have just cause to complain of us. This was a question of the utmost importance; this was a most remarkable period in our history. When Spanish America threw off the odious yoke of its old government, as he hoped in God it would do, it would be a most delicate question how the English government ought to conduct itself on such a momentous occasion. Was it fit that we should give any assistance towards the subjugation of countries with which we should hope to be able to carry on a most extensive and advantageous commerce? The right hon. gentleman evaded the question of granting the garter to Ferdinand, at least he seemed to make very light of it. That once dignified order was conferred upon a man who could be considered nothing better than a usurper, on the rights of his people; and he wished to know who had been the adviser of the Prince Regent in that act.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, assured the hon. gentleman that no such assistance as that which alluded to had been given by our government to Old Spain.—With respect to the reflections that were thrown upon Ferdinand, it must be recollected, that during the whole of the time we were in alliance with Spain it was with Ferdinand only that we acted, as the provisional government all acted in his name. Were we not bound therefore to recognize his government on his return to his kingdom?

Mr. Bennett, asserted that an expedition for subduing the patriots of New Spain had been fitted out at Cadiz under the eye of Sir H. Wellesley.

DUBLIN, Feb. 17.

POLITICAL DUEL.

We noticed in our paper of the 10th inst. a duel which took place at Bishop's Court, within twelve miles of Dublin, between counsellor O'Connell and Mr. D'Esterre, on the 2d of this month, in which the latter gentleman received a wound, of which he died two days after. The circumstance which gave rise to the dispute in question, was an observation made by counsellor O'Connell at a meeting of Catholic gentlemen, in which, speaking of the recent resolution of the corporation of Dublin, respecting petitioning parliament against the Catholic claims, Mr. O'Connell applied the epithet *biggery* to the corporation. On the 25th of last month Mr. D'Esterre, who was a member of the corporation, wrote to Mr. O'Connell requiring a disavowal of the offensive expression. The barrister declined saying whether the newspapers had or had not correctly reported this word, but added, "that from the calumnious manner in which the religion and character of the Catholics of Ireland were treated by the corporation, no terms attributed to him, however reproachful, could express the contemptuous feelings he entertained for the body in its corporate capacity."—Mr. D'Esterre was not satisfied with this reply, and addressed another letter to

Mr. O'Connell, which was returned unanswered. Mr. D'Esterre and his friends now used threats of manual chastisement, and as a rencontre was expected in the streets, a crowd, amongst whom was upwards of 500 gentlemen, followed Mr. O'Connell wherever he went, with an expectation of witnessing it. The parties, however, did not meet, but so great was the sensation occasioned by the affair, that Judge Day called on Mr. O'Connell in his official capacity, to prevent the expected duel. The barrister, pledged his honor that he would not be the assailant, and the judge retired. On the 1st inst. Sir Edward Stanley, a wine merchant, who was created a knight by the Duke of Richmond, and who has eight hundred pounds a year, as a barrack master of Dublin, waited on Mr. O'Connell, with the threatened message. He was referred to Major Macnamara, a protestant gentleman of an ancient Irish family, and son-in-law to Judge Finliffe, between whom and Sir Edward, the time and place were settled. The parties having arrived on the ground were placed ten paces asunder, and having received each a pair of pistols, were left to fire as their judgment directed. Mr. D'Esterre fired and missed; his opponent immediately returned the fire, and Mr. D'Esterre fell. When on the ground, Sir Edward Stanley addressed Major Macnamara as follows:

"Well, Sir, when each has discharged his case of pistols, I hope the affair will be considered as terminated, and that we leave the ground!"

To which Mr. Macnamara replied—"Sir, you may of course, take your friend from the ground when you please. You, sir, are the challenger, and you may retire from the ground whenever you think proper; but I shall not enter into any such condition as you propose. However, it is probable there may be no occasion to discharge the whole of a case of pistols." Mr. D'Esterre bore a most amiable character in private life, and was universally regretted. It is remarkable, that he was one of the few members of the corporation who opposed the vote against the Catholics, which was the remote cause of his melancholy fate!—In early life he was a lieutenant of marines, and was very active in suppressing the mutiny at the Nile, and was so near suffering for his loyal exertions, that the rope was actually put at his neck, and he was on the point of being swung up to the yard arm.—He was afterwards a merchant in Dublin, and a government contractor. He was married to a very beautiful & accomplished young lady, daughter of the celebrated Mr. Cramer, the musician. Mr. D'Esterre, has left his beautiful widow, now SEVENTEEN years of age, with one living child, and one coming.

There was no inquest held on the body, and Sir Edward Stanley wrote to Mr. O'Connell that neither the friends nor the family of the deceased meant to prosecute, to which the barrister returned a suitable reply; lamenting the fate of his opponent and acknowledging the generous sentiments manifested in Sir Edward's letter. The affair has created a great sensation throughout Ireland, which is agitated in an alarming degree, by religious political parties.

PHILADELPHIA, May 13.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

Received by the Victoria.

Windsor Castle, April 1.

His Majesty has passed the last month in an uniform state of tranquillity; but his Majesty's disorder continues unaltered, (Signed as usual.)

LONDON, April 3.

Yesterday a French Messenger arrived at Dover, with dispatches from the French government—some say from Napoleon himself; for the British government. He came from Calais in one of the passage boats, and remained at Dover last night when the mail came away, waiting for permission from Ministers to proceed to London. To affect to know anything of the contents of these despatches would be ridiculous; but in every step that has yet been taken since the return of Napoleon, we have no doubt that in profession at least these despatches aim at the prevention of hostilities between the two countries.

APRIL 4.

The French Messenger, whose arrival at Dover we announced yesterday, was not permitted to proceed to London with his dispatches. These dispatches were, it now appears, addressed to the Comte de Chastre, the French Ambassador. He had also with him dispatches for some of the French Consuls in Scotland and Ireland. The Messenger sailed again yesterday from Dover for Calais.

The Earl of Harrowby and Mr. Wellesley Pole, also sailed yesterday evening from Dover. They go to Ostend, whence they are to proceed to Brussels, where a council is now assembling, which will be composed of Ministers not only from the States, that formed the Congress of Vienna, but from most of those which contributed to the success of the last campaign against France.—At this council the political and military measures, to be adopted for supporting the Declaration of the Allied Powers, at Vienna, will be taken into consideration; and the expectation of the best informed circles is, that their first act, should all the circumstance which may come under discussion be found to demand it, will be to address a proclamation to the people of France, reminding them of the circumstances in which they stood towards the Allies, at the time of the treaty of Fontenoy; of the full power of the latter to have enforced the military penalties to which that country had subjected itself, after losing its army in making wars upon all others; of the effect of Bonaparte's abdication, in bar of these penalties; and of the duty abiding it, which the French acknowledged, when they accepted the full release that accompanied it, and when their Senate, their Army, and their Magistrates declared him unworthy of reigning. The proclamation will call upon the French Na-

tion to spare the effusion of blood by fulfilling this duty, and surrendering or expelling the Usurper.

Should that call be found necessary, and should it be made in vain, the Allied armies will immediately enter into France and carry on the war with the utmost energy. In the mean time, the different powers are preparing their means—all their armed forces will be got in readiness for action upon the French frontier, and thus there is some probability that the soil of France will be made the theatre of the war.

If war shall be found inevitable, it is certainly good policy to be well prepared for it, and it is equally desirable that the evils which are inseparable from the scene of conflict, should, if possible, be confined to the territory of that people which has provoked the contest. The French have suffered many revolutionary horrors, but hitherto (except during the campaign which made the Allies Masters of Paris) they have hardly suffered at all in the long wars which have nearly desolated some of the other states of Europe. If we must have war, knowing, as the world does, not only by declarations but by experience, that it has never been the maxim of the enemy to "make war, maintain war," it is highly desirable that the effects of such a maxim should be turned against the common enemy, and the people who support him.

From every circumstance that transpires, we are led to believe, not that those who have the direction of our public affairs are resolved to go to war with France as a measure that is desirable, but that, from every view of the transactions which have occurred, and the state in which Europe is placed, by the movements of a troublesome individual, and the support he has met with from men bred up and scenes of war, tumult and robbery, they are led to consider war as the only alternative left for the public safety. At all events, it is proper that they should be prepared for the event. At such a crisis as the present, they would be highly criminal were they to expose the welfare and safety of the community to danger by any kind of negligence—and if war cannot be averted, it is unquestionably sound policy that it should be carried on with rapidity and energy, the better to buffet the enemy in the arrangements which it cannot be doubted, he is now making for the conflict.

From what passed in the House of Commons last night, it seems apparent that ministers consider themselves and the country placed in circumstances which seem to render war unavoidable.

April 3.

In the House of Commons, last night, Mr. Whitbread inquired, when certain papers relative to the Slave Trade, and the proceedings with regard to Genoa, which had been ordered by the house, were to be brought down? Also, whether on this day or Tuesday, the house were to expect a communication from the Prince Regent on the state of Foreign Affairs.

Lord Castlereagh informed the house that he was about to present the papers which had been ordered by the house, and that on Tuesday he expected to lay before them a Message from the Prince Regent, upon the state of Foreign Affairs the consideration of which he meant to fix for Friday evening, postponing the consideration of the American Question, which stood for that day, until the Tuesday following.

It is now pretty generally understood that the Property tax will immediately be revived. If we may credit the reports circulated with confidence, respecting it, the following is the arrangement which will be soon submitted for the approbation of Parliament, viz five per cent on incomes not exceeding 200l. per annum—10 per cent on incomes from 200l. to 500l. and 12 1-2 per cent on all above 500.

ATREBURG, March 22.

The Allgemeine Zeitung has the following article from Vienna:

"All the Russian, Prussian, and Austrian armies have received orders to advance to the Rhine. Some accounts say, that Mr. Talleyrand has addressed a secret article of the treaty of Paris, by which the powers engaged to assist the Bourbons in case of insurrections—in consequence of this a convention is said to have been concluded within these few days, by which the Russian, Prussian, and Austrian, and Prussian, engage to march to the Rhine a number of troops, proportioned to their respective forces."

"They guarantee the Crown of France to the Bourbons & declare that their cause is the cause of Europe. It has also been proposed to address a declaration to the French, to represent to them with dignity and energy, the consequences of their faithlessness, and to make them responsible for all the evils of war. The convention in question was ratified and sent to France on the 18th."

VIENNA, March 30.

Forty disguised Frenchmen made an attempt last night to seize the King of Rome, and carry him off to France, and the plan nearly succeeded. Our every watchful police was led to suspect something, from the circumstance that 15 hackney coaches were ordered at the same time to one place. Soon after, the preparations made at the next stations were also discovered, and as the whole plan immediately found out; among the persons arrested on this occasion were a General and two Colonels. It is now known that relays of post horses were bespoken as far as to the Rhine; it is therefore been judged proper to prepare many apartments for his august mother and him in the Imperial Palace. They have already left Schonbrunn.